

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1046

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- ARKANSAS WATERWAYS COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE -
ARKANSAS WATERWAYS COMMISSION
APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL
YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Waterways Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	PPE13C	WATERWAYS COMMISSION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SPC04
(2)	PAS01P	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS05
(3)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	3	



SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Waterways Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$171,883
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	63,856
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	88,879
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	8,151
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) STATE'S CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>2,555</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$335,324</u></u>

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Port, Intermodal, and Waterway Development Grant Program Fund, for grants to port authorities and intermodal authorities under the Arkansas Port, Intermodal, and Waterway Development Grant Program for port development projects as defined by Arkansas Code 15-23-205 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	<u><u>\$5,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas River Navigation System Fund, for expenses for the development, improvement, and expansion of river transportation resources within the portion of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System

located in the State of Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM EXPENSES	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

SECTION 5. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act

being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

APPROVED: 4/22/26